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Faculty Recital

Charae Krueger, cello

Robert Henry, *piano*

Helen Kim, *violin*

Laurence Sherr, *composer*

Heather Witt, *mezzo-soprano*

John Warren, *clarinet*

John Lawless, *percussion*

David Kehler, *conductor*

Live Streamed from Morgan Hall

PROGRAM

ZOLTÁN KODÁLY (1882 – 1967)

DUO FOR VIOLIN AND CELLO, op. 7

I. Allegro serio, non troppo

II. Adagio

III. Maestoso e largamente, ma non troppo lento; presto

Helen Kim, violin

Charae Krueger, cello

LAURENCE SHERR (b.1953)

FLAME LANGUAGE for mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble (2008)

Heather Witt, mezzo-soprano

John Warren, clarinet

Charae Krueger, cello

Robert Henry, piano

John Lawless, percussion

David Kehler, conductor



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LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)
SONATA NO. 5 in D Major, op. 102, No.2

I. Allegro con brio
II. Adagio con molto sentimento d'affetto
III. Allegro-Allegro fugato

Charae Krueger, cello
Robert Henry, piano

PROGRAM NOTE

Notes for Laurence Sherr's *Flame Language*:

German poet Nelly Sachs, winner of the 1966 Nobel Prize for Literature for her poetry witnessing the Holocaust, narrowly escaped with her mother to the neutral country of Sweden in 1940. Surviving the war in poverty in their one-room Stockholm apartment, Sachs wrote about the tragedy of the Jewish people in words that were also universal, symbolic of the suffering and redemption of all humanity. She was particularly aggrieved to learn that the man she had loved for more than 30 years had died in a concentration camp in 1943, and penned a cycle of ten poems, "Gebete für den toten Bräutigam" (Prayers for a Dead Bridegroom). These appeared in the 1946 collection *In den Wohnungen des Todes* (In the Dwellings of Death).

I selected the first poem in the cycle and decided that it was important to have English-speaking audiences understand the poetry as it was being sung. With the goal of creating an English translation whose meaning was as close as possible to the original, I enlisted the aid of my faculty colleague Dr. Sabine Smith. Her German-language expertise led to this new English version. The imagery of Sachs' opening lines is what initially caught my attention: Jews customarily mark the mourning following the death of a loved one with a seven-day candle, and each anniversary of the death thereafter with a 24-hour candle (a *Jahrzeitlicht*). Yet the trembling, quaking flame could also represent a force both illuminating and destructive. The four elements from ancient Greek philosophy, which Sachs uses widely in her work, all appear here (dust as a metaphor for earth). Other Sachs' influences stem from her reading of Jewish and Christian mysticism and literature, including the Kabbalah and the Zohar. (LS)



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TRANSLATIONS

Die Kerze, die ich für dich entzündet habe
Nelly Sachs

The candle that I have lit for you

Die Kerze, die ich für dich entzündet habe,
Spricht mit der Luft der Flammensprache Beben,
Und Wasser tropft vom Auge; aus dem Grabe
Dein Staub vernehmlich ruft zum ewgen Leben.

The candle that I have lit for you
Speaks quakes with the air of flame language,
And water drops from the eye; from the grave
Your dust distinctly calls to life eternal.

O hoher Treffpunkt in der Armut Zimmer.
Wenn ich nur wüsste, was die Elemente meinen;
Sie deuten dich, denn alles deutet immer
Auf dich; ich kann nichts tun als weinen.

Oh exalted meeting place in poverty's room.
If I only knew, what the elements mean;
They strive to understand you, for everything
points always
To you; I can do nothing but cry.

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PERSONNEL

CHARAE KRUEGER, cello

with

ROBERT HENRY, piano

HELEN KIM, violin

and joined by

Laurence Sherr, composer

Heather Witt, mezzo-soprano

John Warren, clarinet

John Lawless, percussion

David Kehler, conductor



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BIOGRAPHIES

Charae Krueger

Charae Krueger received her training in cello studies at the New England Conservatory of Music where she studied with Laurence Lesser and Colin Carr and received a Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance.

She also holds an Artist Diploma from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. Ms. Krueger received her chamber music training with Eugene Lehner of the Kolisch Quartet, as well as with Robert Mann and Samuel Rhodes of the Juilliard String Quartet. She has also coached with such artists as Menahem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio, Louis Krasner, Felix Galimir and Leon Kirchner. She has played in masterclasses with Aldo Parisot, Janos Starker and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi at the Banff School for the Arts.

Since moving to Atlanta five years ago, Ms. Krueger has been appointed principal cellist of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. She also performs frequently with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Tennessee, where she will be featured as soloist this season. She enjoys playing chamber music with various ensembles throughout the city, performing with the Amadeus String Ensemble, the Musica Da Camera, the Chamber Music Society of Atlanta and the Lyra String Quartet. Ms. Krueger was recently appointed cello professor at Kennesaw State University and is a member of the faculty string quartet in residence there as well.

While living in Boston, Ms. Krueger was principal cellist for ten years with the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra and also performed with the Vermont Symphony, Nashua NH Symphony and the New England Chamber Orchestra. She was a founding member of the Arden String Quartet, a nationally managed group who, in 1996, succeeded the Borromeo and Ying Quartets by receiving the Arthur W. Foote Emerging Artist award. The Quartet was formed under the sponsorship of the Longy School of Music, where they were in residence from 1993-1996. As a member of the Arden Quartet, Ms. Krueger performed up and down the eastern U.S., playing in such venues as Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, Rockefeller University, Brown University, the Seaside Institute, MIT, Harvard Musical Association, Tufts University and NEC's Jordan Hall. She has given U.S. premieres of works by Elliot Carter, Gunther Schuller, Herschel Garfein, Victor Ullman and Alexander Mnatskanyan. She has also enjoyed playing chamber music in such groups as the Boccherini Ensemble, Trillium (a flute- oboe-cello trio) and the Speakeasy String Quartet (a jazz string quartet).

Ms. Krueger plays on a cello made by Abraham Prescott in Concord, N.H. in 1830.

Robert Henry

"Robert Henry's lyricism hits the mark. Cogent shaping, dynamism, and powerful; inner voices decisively sing and project as his Chopin's bass lines reinforce this music's often ignored backbone; rapturous and texturally refined playing; absolutely enchanting." --Gramophone Magazine

Hailed as a "consummate artist -- brilliant, formidable, effortless, and the epitome of control and poise," Robert Henry is an internationally distinguished pianist, winning universal acclaim as orchestral soloist, recitalist, accompanist, and chamber musician. Possessing the rare combination of insight, inspiration, and a dazzling technique, he continues to touch and electrify audiences around the world.



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Career highlights include 2002 solo debut recitals at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Wigmore Hall, with critics praising his "flawless technique, smooth and limpid phrasing, exciting programming." He performed the opening concert for the 2004 MTNA National Convention, and has presented concerts, masterclasses, and lectures under the auspices of the American Pianists Association, Chopin Foundation of America, National Gallery of Art, Glinka Conservatory, Phillips Collection, University of California-Berkeley, University of Maryland, University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, Arkansas State University, Georgia State University, Strathmore Hall, Kitzingen Piano Festival (Germany), and the Ibla-Ragusa Piano Festival (Italy). He has presented concert tours of the U.S., England, Poland, Czech Republic, Nova Scotia, Russia, Italy, and Canada.

A renowned collaborator and chamber musician, he has appeared with such notable conductors as Robert Spano, Donald Runnicles, Michael Palmer, Steven Byess, and Stefan Sanderling. Following his recent major orchestral debut with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Journal Constitution claimed Robert as "an accomplished musician, versatile and elegant...he elevated the concerto to a poignant statement." Dr. Henry has presented recitals with the Pacifica Quartet, cellist Shauna Rolston, soprano Mary Ann Hart, and tenor Sergio Blasquez. He has toured internationally with the Grammy-winning Atlanta Boy Choir, directed by Fletcher Wolfe, and has accompanied the masterclasses of eminent artists Jerry Hadley, Frederica von Stade, and Håkan Hagegård.

Together with cellist Charae Krueger, he has presented the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven. He is also a founding member of the Summit Piano Trio, joined by Helen Kim (violin) and Charae Krueger (cello). Critics have praised his ensemble playing, saying, "It was clear from the outset that Robert Henry is a master of the keyboard. He moves easily from being an accompanist, to a soloist, to one member of the dialogue between his instrument and the ensemble. Robert Henry is top notch."

Robert Henry has enjoyed phenomenal success in important piano competitions, ultimately winning the Gold Medal in four International Piano Competitions in the 2001-2002 season alone (New Orleans International Piano Competition, Washington International Piano Competition, Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, Alfredo Barilli International Piano Competition). These prizes stand alongside fourteen additional first place awards received throughout his career, including the Clara Wells National Competition. On three occasions, juries have spontaneously created special prizes to honor his performances, including Best Performance of a 20th-Century Work and Best Performance of a Commissioned Work. He is a laureate of the 2003 Seiler International Piano Competition (Germany).

An International Steinway Artist, Dr. Henry has earned a reputation for giving stunning performances of the most demanding repertoire and for presenting overlooked masterpieces to the public, from Bach to Boulanger. One New York critic wrote, "Robert Henry's Chopin-Godowsky Études were beautiful beyond description. His sound brings to mind the great pianists of the past, for whom beauty of tone was integral to the structure of the phrase."

In response to Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Henry coordinated and performed in the 2006 "Pianists for New Orleans" tour of the United States, raising over \$100,000 for the city. For these efforts, he was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans.

In 2010, Robert Henry released his debut CD, Twelve Nocturnes and a Waltz, to rave reviews. Gramophone Magazine declared, "Robert Henry's lyricism hits the mark. Absolutely enchanting." The recording is a collection of some of the world's best-loved melodies, featuring Nocturnes of Chopin, Faur, Grieg, Liszt, and many others, including the world



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premiere of Alexei Stanchinsky's forgotten Nocturne from 1907. Also featured is Dr. Henry's own published transcription of Waltz for the Lonely, originally by guitarist Chet Atkins. Dr. Henry was also winner of two 2010 Telly Awards for the documentary about his recording experience, *The Making of Twelve Nocturnes and a Waltz*. Dr. Henry was joined by violinist Helen Kim in a world premiere recording of *Romance and Dance* by Chen Yi for Centaur Records. Also, Mr. Henry arranged and performed Faure's *Pie Jesu* for the Atlanta Boy Choir for the film, *Captain America 3* (2016). He is regularly heard locally and nationally on NPR's *Atlanta Music Scene* and *Performance Today*.

In 2016, Dr. Henry released his third critically acclaimed recording, *As the Songbird Sings: Music of Schubert and Brahms*, which included the world premiere recording of Brahms' recently discovered piece, *Albumblatt*.

Dr. Henry earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland, with additional studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Glinka Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was awarded the 2009 KSU Distinguished Alumni Award. He has studied closely with pianists Larissa Dedova, Sergei Dzevanovsky, Anne Koscielnny, David Watkins, Joseph Meeks, George Mintz, Sergei Babayan, and André Watts.

As an educator and pedagogue, Dr. Robert Henry is an MTNA Nationally Certified educator and has lectured and performed at universities, conservatories, and festivals worldwide. He has served as recitalist, clinician, and juror for state, regional, and national MTNA conventions and competitions, and he has been featured in *American Music Teacher*, *Gramophone*, and *Clavier*. He operates an exclusive private studio in Atlanta, GA. He is Artistic Director of the Great Performances Concert Series in Highlands, NC, Interim Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir, Organist-Choirmaster of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC, and he proudly serves as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Piano at Kennesaw State University.

In 2019, Dr. Henry will present a lecture entitled, "Practicing Like a Pro" at the MTNA National Convention in Spokane Washington. Future projects include a recording of Bach's Complete Two-Part Inventions and Chopin *Études*, Op. 10.

Robert and his wife Meryl live in historic Marietta, GA, with their son, Lucas Sebastian Henry. He maintains his web-presence at www.roberthenry.org.

Dr. Henry is represented by Parker Artists, New York.

Helen Kim

Helen Hwaya Kim joined the music faculty in 2006 at Kennesaw State University with a stellar performance background. She made her orchestral debut with the Calgary Philharmonic at the age of six, and has gone on to become a respected and sought-after artist. She has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops at Boston's Symphony Hall, as well as with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras.

Ms. Kim earned her Bachelor and Master's Degree from the Juilliard School, where her teachers included Cho-Liang Lin and Dorothy DeLay. While at Juilliard, she served as Concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and was the winner of the Juilliard Concerto Competition at both the Pre-College and College levels. She is the recipient of more than one



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hundred national and international awards. She won the prestigious Artists International Competition in New York and, as a result, gave debut recitals at Carnegie Weill Hall and the Aspen Summer Music Festival.

A native of Canada, Ms. Kim has been engaged by many of Canada's leading orchestras, including the National Arts Center Orchestra, Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, McGill Chamber Orchestra, and the Windsor, Regina, Victoria and Prince George Symphonies. She has also appeared with the DeKalb, New Orleans, Aspen and Banff Festival Orchestras, and with orchestras in the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland. Ms. Kim has been profiled on national and international television and has appeared on CBC, PBS and CBS networks. Her performances have been aired on NPR and CBC radio networks.

Ms. Kim has toured extensively throughout Canada and the United States, including performances at Alice Tully Hall and the Santa Fe and La Jolla International Music Festivals, where she performed with Cho-Liang Lin, Gary Hoffman, Andre Previn, and the Orion String Quartet. She performed Bach's Double violin concerto with Hilary Hahn at the Amelia Island Chamber music festival. Other festival highlights include performances at the Highlands-Cashiers, Banff, Zenith and Sitka International Chamber Music Festivals.

An avid performer of new music, she can be heard on the recent CD release of the works of Alvin Singleton on Albany records. Helen performed the world premiere of the "Concertino" by Chen Yi, scored for solo violin and orchestra that was commissioned especially for her and the KSU Orchestra and was recently released by Centaur in 2016.

Ms. Kim currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where she served as Assistant and Associate Concertmaster for the Atlanta Symphony for three seasons. She is currently the Assistant Concertmaster of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and recently joined the roster of the Atlanta Chamber Players.

Laurence Sherr

Laurence Sherr is active as a composer of Holocaust remembrance music, lecturer on Holocaust music topics, producer of remembrance events, and Holocaust music educator. Performances and lectures have been given in the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, England, Norway, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, and North America. His Music of Resistance and Survival Project features his Sonata for Cello and Piano—Mir zaynen do!, a composition that integrates Holocaust songs from the partisans, ghettos, and camps with newly composed material. The poetry of Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs is featured in his compositions *Fugitive Footsteps* and *Flame Language*.

Dissemination of his work includes: Music of Resistance and Survival events in Europe, Australasia, Israel, and the US; a Keynote Address and composition performances at the Recovering Forbidden Voices international conference in New Zealand; a lecture and performance at an international conference in Leeds, England; lectures and concerts in Prague; and a workshop on teaching music and the Holocaust at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. His concert and educational activities in Germany, produced in collaboration with the children of the generation who persecuted his mother's family, led to reconciliation and healing. He developed the global-citizenship course Music and the Holocaust.

Dr. Sherr is Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Music at Kennesaw State University. Awards include top prizes in the Delius Composition Contest and the composition competition of the Association for the Promotion of New Music. International performances have been given in France, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Finland, Turkey, China, Japan, Canada, and Mexico. Fellowship awards include those from the MacDowell Colony, American Dance Festival, Seaside Institute, and Hot Springs National Park. Several studies examine his contributions, including the Florida State University doctoral treatise *Laurence Sherr: Chamber Music for Flute*. His compositions are recorded on CDs released in Europe and the U.S.



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Heather Witt

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution called mezzo-soprano Heather Witt “the kind of singer you hope to hear - talented, alert... a singer with a future.” Ms. Witt is known for her portrayal of a wide array of opera’s most notable mezzo-soprano characters, including: Gertrude in *Roméo et Juliette*, Giulietta in *Les contes d’Hoffmann* (FIO, Brazil), Dryad in *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, Second Lady and Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Elmire in *Tartuffe*, Mauya in *Riders to the Sea*, Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, Mrs. Herring in *Albert Herring*, Meg in *Falstaff*, Sally in *Hand of Bridge*, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, among many others.

Most recently Heather Witt performed in the debut of a fully staged production of Hans Eisler's *Hollywood Songbook* (Songfest). The L.A. Times called her performance “uniformly impressive.” She also performed as a guest artist for the University of Georgia’s production of *Gianni Schicchi*, performing the role of Zita. Some of her other notable roles are Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Phobia in *La Pizza con Funghi*, Maddalena in a highlights production of *Rigoletto* with Northwinds Symphonic Band (Gainesville, GA), and the alto soloist for Handel's *Messiah* with the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium (Anderson, SC).

Ms. Witt has shown her versatility in musical theater and pop music. She has performed with Big Mike Geier and the Kingsized Orchestra and was a founding member of Mr. Blue Sky which was featured in the pilot television show “Sounds of the Underground.” She was heralded by the Atlanta Journal Constitution as “A delightful standout... splendid as the operatic armoire” in *Beauty and the Beast*. A few of her other roles include The Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, Mrs. Anderssen in *A Little Night Music* and Yonah in *Children of Eden*.

Ms. Witt won first place in Georgia State University’s Bauru Atlanta Competition (2011), was an Emerging Artist at St. Petersburg Opera (FL) in 2011, and also attended the prestigious Opera Division at La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy (2005). In 2013, Ms. Witt made her South American debut with Festival of International Opera of the Americas in Sao Paulo, Brazil. From 2006 to 2009, she was a member of the world-renowned Atlanta Opera Chorus, and has been a featured soloist for many Atlanta Opera events and collaborations.

Heather Witt is also an esteemed oratorio and concert soloist, and is a staff soloist at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Ms. Witt completed her undergraduate studies in Music at Millikin University (Decatur, IL), and received a Masters in Voice from Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA).

John Warren

John Warren joined the Kennesaw State University faculty in 2006. After a national search, he was selected as Professor of Clarinet in 2011.

His previous university affiliations include Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, and The University of Nebraska at Omaha. For 15 years, he was the principal clarinetist of the Savannah Symphony Orchestra and prior to that position, the principal clarinetist of the Omaha Symphony. He served as principal clarinetist of the Des Moines Metro Opera for many summers prior to arriving in Atlanta. At KSU, Mr. Warren teaches studio clarinet, wind chamber music, and coordinates the woodwind area.



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Mr. Warren is a member of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra, the IRIS Orchestra of Memphis, TN, as well as performing frequently and recording with the Atlanta Symphony. His playing can be heard on the Telarc, Naxos, Albany, and New World labels.

He has performed as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the IRIS Orchestra, the Curtis Institute Orchestra, and the Symphonies of Savannah, Omaha, Hilton Head, and Beaufort, SC. As a recitalist and chamber musician, Mr. Warren has appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Evian Festival and the Highlands Chamber Music Festival. He has been a featured recitalist at a number of conferences of the International Clarinet Association and has coordinated the ICA's High School Solo Competition.

Mr. Warren serves as a performing artist for Yamaha, playing their CSVR line of instruments. He is a performing artist with D'Addario, using their X-10E mouthpiece, and recent became associated as an endorsing artist with Légère, the world's leading innovator in synthetic reeds.

Originally, from Shreveport, Louisiana, Mr. Warren holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College/Conservatory of Music and The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. His most influential teachers include Donald Montanaro, L. Thomas LeGrand, and Richard Waller.

John Lawless

John Lawless, Senior Lecturer, joined the music faculty of Kennesaw State University in 1998 and became the Director of Percussion Studies in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera orchestra since 1979, John held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony for 21 years. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed, toured and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as a studio and pit percussionist.

A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concerts a year for thousands of children throughout the Southeastern United States. Along with Scott Douglas and Karen Hunt, the trio has been a performing group for 32 years, bringing educational programs to children of all ages.

As a soloist, Mr. Lawless played several concertos with the Chattanooga Symphony, including: The Olympian for 8 Timpani and Orchestra as well as The Messenger for Multiple Percussion and Orchestra, both written by James Oliverio. In 2009, Mr. Lawless performed Joseph Schwantner's Concerto for Percussion with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, he performed the Southeastern premier of Christopher Theofinidis' Marimba Concerto with the KSU Wind Ensemble for the Festival of New Music.

A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless' teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder and Mark Yancich. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University and West Georgia State University.

David Kehler

Since 2009, David Kehler has served as Director of Bands at Kennesaw State University where he oversees all aspects of the University's band program while serving as Music Director and Conductor of the KSU Wind Ensemble. [Read more](#)

An advocate of new music, Professor Kehler has commissioned leading composers to write new works for wind ensemble including Michael Markowski, Joel Puckett, James Stephenson, Christopher Theofinidis, and an upcoming commission by Pulitzer Prize winner, Joseph Schwantner. In addition, the KSU Wind Ensemble has been featured on



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90.1 FM (WABE- Atlanta public radio), and continues to garner praise from composers including Steven Bryant, Karel Husa, David Lang, David Maslanka, Scott McAllister, and Joel Puckett. In 2012, the KSU Wind Ensemble was a featured ensemble and hosted the Southern Division College Band Directors /National Band Association Conference. In 2013, the KSU Wind Ensemble was the winner of the 2013 American Prize for best Wind Ensemble/Concert Band performance in the United States. In addition to his ensemble responsibilities, Dr. Kehler teaches courses in instrumental conducting, wind literature and symphonic repertoire.

Previously, David Kehler served The University of Texas at Austin as a Graduate Conducting Associate receiving a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. From 2001-2009, Dr. Kehler served as Associate Conductor of America's Premier Windband; The Dallas Wind Symphony where he was the director of the Dallas Wind Symphony International Fanfare Project. In addition, Dr. Kehler conducted the Dallas Wind Symphony throughout Texas, including the annual Labor Day Concert at the Dallas Arboretum, various Chautauqua festivals, holiday concerts, and a formal gala presented by the United States Armed Forces with all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in attendance.

While in Texas, Dr. Kehler was also Founder and Conductor of the GDYO Wind Symphony, an ensemble affiliated with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras, Inc. During his ten years of service, the GDYO Wind Symphony established itself as one of the premier youth wind ensembles in the United States. They were a featured ensemble at the Texas Bandmasters Association/National Band Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and were heard internationally on "From the Top", a syndicated radio program featuring the finest young classical musicians in the country. In addition, the GDYO Wind Symphony participated in exchange concerts with the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and performed with Jeff Nelson, former horn of the Canadian Brass. In the summer of 2008, the GDYO Wind Symphony embarked on an extensive two-week tour of China, performing at all of the major music conservatories throughout China and Hong Kong.

Previous university appointments were at Southern Methodist University, the University of Rhode Island, and Bay City Western High School, in Bay City, Michigan. Growing up in Michigan, Dr. Kehler received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Michigan State University. Professor Kehler is an active conductor and clinician throughout the United States, and has memberships in many musical organizations including CBDNA, NBA, NAFME, Phi Beta Mu, GMEA and others.



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